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FLOOR DEBATE

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many...do you know if there's sales tax on food in Saudi Arabia? Well, the answer is no. Is there sales tax on pharmaceuticals in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia? No. How about utilities? We tried to have a bill that would cut our tax and utilities. Is there a tax on utilities in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia? The answer is no. In fact, according to the Saudi desk in the United States State Department, there are no taxes in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Now albeit it's hard to figure out where the royal family begins and the government ends. I'll give that to you all the way. But at least in this country they have distributed the resources for the people that make up its citizenry. How many American allies where a small number of people own a large percent of their country distribute their wealth and resources to the same extent? The price of crude is flat and we've heard that time and time again. The problem with the price of gasoline is an American problem, the refineries. This is an American problem. And I'm not going to...this is probably my only time I'm going to speak on this bill, frankly, other than to say I wish this would have been substituted for LB 75 and we had just called it a day on LB 75. That being said, I did want to rise when...and the words jingoism, we talk about different words people bring out of their hat, well, jingoism is one of those terms that kind of downplays another country or another people because we're frustrated. We're frustrated that gasoline prices are going to be probably \$2 this summer and some even say to \$3. And when we're frustrated, my reason for saying this about the Saudis is not so much I'm a great fan of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and I wish they'd go to democracy tomorrow. But what I do want to say is that when we're frustrated, sometimes we take it out on other people. And I grew up during the era of oil embargo and Arabs was the one that we took it out. Oh those Arabs, they have all the gas. Well, let me tell you, the Syrian Army fought on our left flank when I was in Desert Storm. The Egyptians were there. Afghanistan was there. Senegal was there. There were Middle East Islamic countries that were our allies. So when we talk about our frustrations with the price of oil, one, it's their oil. Two, it's an American problem. Three, if you don't want to buy it, you don't have to buy it. We are the ones that are addicted to the internal combustion engine in this country. We're the ones that says we need this oil fix. Okay? We could